H.R. 7 in its current form sends a loud and clear message to most of the nations of Central and Eastern Europe, currently participants in PFP, that they are "on their own" in security matters and that as far as the United States is concerned "it's open season" on these nations. This is a message which will destabilize this region already nervous about the actions of its neighbor to the East - the Russian Federation.

We are sensitive to the claims of the Russian Federation that any expansion of NATO will isolate Russia. But we remind you, Mr. Chairman, that a nation of over 160 million people spanning 11 time zones is hardly a country which can be isolated. It is far more likely, as history as shown, for Russia to isolate herself from the West and Western traditions. Not a single country on Russia's European borders, not even an alliance of these countries, is capable of being a military threat to Russia which still maintains over 1-1/2 million men under arms, 24,000 tanks and 35,000 nuclear weapons.

We urge, you, Mr. Chairman, to seek a remedy to the changes brought about by the poorly considered Torricelli amendment.

Sincerely,

K Paul Zygas

Prof. K. Paul Zygas, Ph.D.
Chairman
Public Affairs Council

cc: Mark Gage